



Association of School Nurses of Connecticut  
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TESTIMONY RE: R.B. NO. 5702, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF  
ASTHMATIC INHALERS BY STUDENTS  
Public Health Select Committee Hearing  
March 3, 2008

To: Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public  
Health Committee

From: The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill  
No. 5702, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ASTHMATIC INHALERS BY  
STUDENTS, on behalf of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, the  
professional organization for school nurses in Connecticut. Our Association is  
opposed to this bill.

While the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut agrees that capable  
students should be able to carry asthma inhalers we cannot support bill 5702 as  
written. It is flawed in many areas. Language regarding medication administration  
should be included in CGS 10-212a which is the law governing medication  
administration, not 10-206. Also, respiratory care providers as defined in Chapter  
381a are respiratory technicians or therapists. These providers are not  
authorized prescribers of medications, nor can schools accept orders from these  
practitioners.

Our suggestion for substitute language to be inserted into a new section under  
10-212a is below:

Boards of education shall permit capable students who have a verified chronic  
medical condition to self administer prescribed emergency medication, including  
rescue asthma inhalers, and may permit such students to self administer other  
medications, excluding controlled drugs as defined in 10-212a, a(1) in



accordance with the board of education's policy on self administration by students, provided:

- (a) An authorized prescriber provides a written order for self administration; and,
- (b) there is written authorization from the student's parent or guardian; and,
- (c) the school nurse has evaluated the situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate; has documented this on the student's cumulative health record; and has developed a plan for general supervision; and,
- (d) the principal and appropriate teachers are informed that the student is self administering prescribed medication; and,
- (e) such medication is transported to the school and maintained under the student's control in accordance with the board of education's policy on self medication by students.

We urge the committee to reject this bill as written as it would not improve care for children; the school district, which includes the school nurses, cannot accept medication orders from individuals who are not authorized prescribers; and it would create financial burdens on families, third party payers and school districts. Please consider the substitute language we have provided which will provide the necessary safeguards for students.

We are available for additional information and consultation about this issue.